

***Sclerocactus schlesseri*** Heil & Welsh**SCHLESSER PINCUSHION****FAMILY:** *Cactaceae*, the cactus family.**SYNONYMS:** *Sclerocactus spinosior* var. *schlesseri*  
*Sclerocactus blainei* (?)  
*Sclerocactus spinosior* ssp. *blainei* (?)**STATUS:****Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1Q S1****USFWS/ESA:** species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** harvest regulated. **BLM:** Special Status Species in Nevada. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** watch list.**POPULATION CENSUS:** **7 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, **OR 13 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 211**, total estimated **area 54.2 ha (134 ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS:** Curtailment or destruction of soil crust and vegetation cover by recreational use, trampling by livestock or feral animals, off-road vehicle use, etc. Also vulnerable to horticultural and hobby collection, some commercial or residential development, mineral exploration and development.**INVENTORY EFFORT:** Extensive surveys have been conducted, but further potential habitat likely remains unexamined in Nevada. Most recent entered survey 1993, average year of last survey 1992.**Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 92.3%; **11-20 yrs:** 7.7%.**LAND MANAGEMENT** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada state lands, private lands.**RANGE:** Lincoln County, Nevada; also in UT (?). Possible or probable **Nevada endemic**. Maximum **range dimension 7.9 km (4.9 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA):** 4760-5145 feet (1451-1568 meters).**HABITAT:** Open, stable or stabilized, gravelly, sandy silt or silty clay soils derived from somewhat ashy and/or gypsiferous lacustrine sediments, on mesic microsites created and/or maintained by gentle north to east aspects, dense shrub and/or grass canopies, high clay and silt content of the soil, and/or cryptobiotic soil crusts, usually associated with such soil crusts in the shadscale zone with *Atriplex confertifolia*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Ericameria viscidiflora puberula*, *Krascheninnikovia lanata*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*, *Mentzelia albicaulis*, *Mimulus parryi*, etc.**PHENOLOGY:** flowering late-spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May-June.**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** small cactus.**DESCRIPTION:** A spiny succulent with a more-or-less oval stem, 3-14 cm tall. Flowers are bright pink and funnel-shaped.**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Morefield (1994); Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present), slide collection (1986-present), and files.**ILLUSTRATIONS:** none known.**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**

- Heil, K. and S. Welsh. 1987. New *Sclerocactus* (Cactaceae) from Nevada. *Great Basin Naturalist* 46: 677-678.  
Heil, K. D. and J. M. Porter. 1994. *Sclerocactus* (Cactaceae): a revision. *Haseltonia* 2: 20-46.  
Hochstaetter, F. 1992. Het geslacht *Sclerocactus*: een revisie 1. *Succulenta* 71: 247-262.  
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Morefield, J. D. 1994. Status report for *Sclerocactus schlesseri* Heil and Welsh (1987). Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, Reno.
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